

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Korea

SUBJECT Farm Conditions in North Pyongan Province
Before the War

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF
INFO. 25X1

25X1A

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

- The situation of the farming communities in North Pyongan Province just before the beginning of the North Korean invasion is shown by the example of Nodong-nyon, Kusong County. Officials of the Myon People's Committee, all members of the North Korean Labor Party (NKLP) and mostly farmers, were the following:

Myon People's Committee, chairman, CH'OE Nae-hyon (崔泰賢), 40, from Kubang-dong.

Myon Branch Office, head, KIM Sam-man (金三曼), 30, from Yang-dong.

RI People's Committee, chairman, WON Tok-song (元德星), 40, from Paeksok-dong.

Myon Farmers' Committee, chairman, NO Hwang-kun (盧黃根), 40, from Paeksok-dong.

RI Democratic Youth Corps, chairman, 25, WON Yong-ch'ol (元容哲), from Paeksok-dong.

RI Women's League, chairman, KIM Chong-tuk (金正得), 28, teacher, from Seoul.

RI NKLP Cell, chairman, NO Won-kun (盧元根), 30, from Paeksok-dong.

RI Forestry Committee, chairman, PAK Yong-ch'il (朴永乙), 45, from Paeksok-dong.

RI Red Cross Committee, chairman unknown.

- When the land reform occurred after the war, members of the NKLP received more and better land than ordinary farmers. They also were not required to remit so much tax in kind, since they arranged the land distribution and set the tax rate. A non-NKLP farmer, for example, who had originally owned about 144,000 square feet (approximately 3.3 acres) of fertile land, was left after the land distribu-

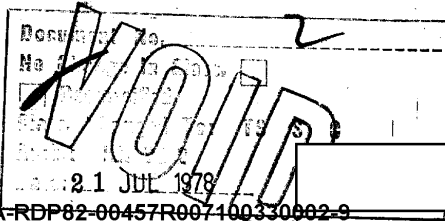
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- 2 -

tion with about 47,600 square feet (a little over an acre) of paddy field. From an annual harvest of 15 bags of rice, he was expected to pay eight as tax in kind, although the official tax was 27 percent of the crop. Tax collections from NKLP and non-NKLP members are shown in the following list:

| Individual | (in square feet) | | Total | Tax Com- | Depen- |
|---|------------------|---------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Fields | Paddies | Harvest | mandered | dents |
| Chairman of ri NKLP cell | 540,000 | 72,000 | 30 bags | 7 bags | 7 |
| Chairman of ri PC, NKLP member | 72,000 | 108,000 | 50 bags | 15 bags | 8 |
| Chairman of ri Farmers' Com- mittee, NKLP member | 72,000 | 98,000 | 50 bags | 13 bags | 6 |
| Democratic Youth Corps member | 216,000 | | 20 bags | 6 bags | 8 |
| Former landed farmer | 180,000 | 180,000 | 120 bags | 50 bags | 10 |

3. Of the food collected as taxes in kind, an average of three hap (a hap is 0.318 pint) per person daily for myon laborers and office workers, was given out as rations. The remainder was taken out of circulation and stored as emergency food reserve or was shipped away as payment for ammunition. About 30 percent of all rice produced and all the wheat, barley, and potatoes were reported bartered for ammunition and strategic metals. The local community had no definite information on the disposal of its grain but believed that it was being shipped from Chinnampo to Dairen by sea or sent by rail from Chongjin to the USSR.

4. Although the taxes in kind were supposed to cover the entire tax obligation of the citizen, several miscellaneous taxes and contributions were also collected in cash. These, averaging nearly 600 won each month, included such items as the following:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Airplane contribution | 100 won |
| School maintenance fee | 50 won |
| Myon maintenance fee | 35 won |
| RI maintenance fee | 1 tu of rice |
| Farmers' Union maintenance fee | 20 won |
| Other miscellaneous contributions | 300 won |

Persons who did not make their contributions by the times stipulated could be charged as non-cooperative or reactionary and might be questioned by the State Security Bureau.

5. In addition to material contributions, farmers were obligated to attend meetings, averaging at least two daily. Most meetings were held in the evening, with attendance obligatory, and there was a People's Assembly, held about ten times a month, which lasted an entire day each time. Occasions for holding meetings included such matters as submission of taxes in kind in advance, the patriotic rice contribution, voluntary enrollment in the army, mobilization of National Reconstruction Units, discussions of the political situation and of seasonal problems, and the reading of newspapers. Farmers attending the evening meetings were usually so tired they would pass any suggestion immediately without objection in order to finish.

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